

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7947

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI, UR, US, ET, SO, SU  
SUBJECT: TASS STATEMENT ON MILITARY THREAT TO ETHIOPIA

REFS: A. MOSCOW 7863, B. MOSCOW 6368

SUMMARY: JUNE 6 TASS STATEMENT WARNS THOSE (ESPECIALLY  
SUDAN) RESPONSIBLE FOR ESCALATING MILITARY THREAT AGAINST  
ETHIOPIA, THAT SITUATION IS DANGEROUS AND THAT THEY MUST  
BEAR "HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY" FOR THEIR ACTIONS. WHAT THAT  
RESPONSIBILITY MIGHT BE IS NOT SPELLED OUT. END SUMMARY.

1. JUNE 6 PRAVDA CARRIES TASS STATEMENT ON DANGER OF  
ESCALATION OF MILITARY MOVES DIRECTED AGAINST "PROGRESSIVE"  
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ETHIOPIAN REGIME FROM ABROAD. STATEMENT WARNS OF  
TROOP CONCENTRATIONS IN WESTERN BORDER (I.E., IN  
SUDAN), OF INFILTRATIO OF ARMED GROUPS ACROSS  
BORDER, AND OF SUPPORT FOR COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY  
AND SEPARATIST ELEMENTS INSIDE ETHIOPIA. ALL OF THIS  
ACTIVITY, SAYS STATEMENT, GE TAKING PLACE WITH  
ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF SUDANESE AUTHORITIES, AS

WELL AS IMPERIALIST AND OTHER REACTIONARY FORCES  
(READ U.S. AND SAUDI ARABIA AT LEAST).

2. THOSE WHO CONTEMPLATE A MILITARY ADVENTURE  
AGAINST ETHIOPIA, SAYS STATEMENT, WANT TO SET AFRICAN  
STATES AGAINST EACH OTHER, UNDERMINE THEIR EFFORTS  
TO STRENGTHEN THEIR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, HINDER THE  
NATIONAL-LIBERATION STRUGGLE AGAINST RACIST REGIMES,  
AND DEFLECT ATTENTION OF ARAB PEOPLE FROM SETTLEMENT  
OF ME CONFLICT.

3. STATEMENT SAYS SOVIET UNION, WHICH IS CONSTRUCTING  
ITS RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA IN ACCORD WITH SOVIET-  
ETHIOPIAN DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTALS (REF A),  
"ATTENTIVELY FOLLOWS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION  
AROUND ETHIOPIA."

4. PUNCH LINE, SUCH AS IT IS, IS IN FINAL PARAGRAPH  
OF STATEMENT WHICH SAYS THAT TASS IS AUTHORIZED  
TO STATE THAT SOVIET UNION "DECISIVELY CONDEMNS"  
ACTIVITIES OF THOSE CIRCLES WHICH ARE PREPARING  
TO CARRY OUT AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA AS WELL  
AS THOSE WHICH URGE THIS DANGEROUS COURSE. THIS  
IS PLAYING WITH FIRE, SAYS STATEMENT, AND ON THOSE  
WHICH CARRY OUT (THIS COURSE) LIES A "HEAVY RESPON-  
SIBILITY BEFORE PEOPLES OF AFRICA AND WHOLE WORLD."

5. COMMENT: TASS STATEMENT ON ETHIOPIA SEEMS  
MORE VAGUE (ALBEIT RATHER SHARP TOWARD SUDANESE)  
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THAN JUNE 3 TASS STATEMENT ON RHODESIAN ATTACK ON  
MOZAMBIQUE (REF B). ITS SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD NOT BE  
UNDERESTIMATED, HOWEVER, GIVEN THE SUPPORT - INCLUDING  
MILITARY SUPPORT - WHICH MOSCOW HAS ALREADY  
EXTENDED TO THE "PROGRESSIVE" PMAC REGIME. ALTHOUGH  
THE MESSAGE WHICH THE STATEMENT CONTAINS IS FAIRLY  
CLEAR FOR THE SUDANESE, AND, TO A LESSER DEGREE,  
ALSO FOR THE SAUDIS AND THE AMERICANS, WE ARE LESS  
SURE OF THE MEANING FOR THE SOMALIS. WHILE INDICATING  
TO THE SOMALIS THAT MOSCOW CONTINUES TO  
SUPPORT THE PMAC AGAINST DIRECT AND INDIRECT  
MILITARY ATTACK, MOSCOW ALSO SEEMS TO CONTINUE TO  
GIVE THE SOMALIS THE CHOICE OF SIDING WITH THE  
"PROGRESSIVE" CAMP AND EASING THE PRESSURE ON  
ETHIOPIA OR OF RUNNING WITH THE IMPERIALISTS AND  
REACTIONARIES AS THEY INCREASE THIS PRESSURE. THUS  
MOSCOW CONTINUES ITS DIFFICULT POLICY OF DEVELOPING  
RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA WHILE TRYING TO MAINTAIN ITS  
POSITION IN SOMALIA.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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